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partial compliance with the contract in her construction, and further providing for an assessment of any damages to which the government may be entitled on account of a partial failure to perform such contract on the payment of the sum still remaining unpaid upon her price in case a full performance is adjudged. The contractor, by reason of his failure in business, being unable to complete the other three vessels, they were taken possession of by the government in their unfinished state under a clause in the contract permitting such a course, and are now in process of completion in the yard of the contractor, but under the supervision of the navy department.

Congress at its last session authorized the construction of two additional new cruisers and two gunboats, at a cost not exceeding in the aggregate \$2,995,000. The appropriation for this purpose having become available on the first day of July last, steps were at once taken for the procurement of such plans for the construction of these vessels as would be likely to insure their usefulness when completed. These are of the utmost importance, considering the constant advance in the art of building vessels of this character, and the time is not lost which is spent in their careful consideration and selection. All must admit.

THE IMPORTANCE OF AN EFFECTIVE NAVY.
To a nation like ours, having such an extended sea coast to protect, and yet we have not a single vessel of war that could keep the seas against a first class vessel of any important power; such a condition ought not longer to continue. The nation that cannot resist aggression is constantly exposed to it. Its foreign policy is of necessity weak, and its negotiations are conducted with disadvantage because it is not in a condition to enforce the terms dictated by its sense of right and justice. Inspired as I am by the hope shown by all patriotic citizens that the day is not very far distant when our navy will be such as befits our standing among the nations of the earth and rejoiced at every step that leads in the direction of such a consummation.

I deem it my duty to especially direct attention to Congress to the close of the report of the Secretary of the Navy in which the humiliating weakness of the present organization of his department is exhibited and the startling abuses and waste of its present methods are expressed. The conviction is forced upon us with the certainty of mathematical demonstration that before we proceed further in the restoration of a navy we need a thoroughly reorganized Navy Department. The fact that within seventeen years more than seventy-five millions of dollars have been spent in construction, repairs, equipments, and armament of vessels, and the further fact that instead of an effective and creditable fleet, we have only the discontent and apprehension of a nation undefended by war vessels, which added to the disclosures now made, do not permit us to doubt that every attempt to revive our navy has this far, for the most part, been misdirected, and all our efforts in that direction have been little better than blind groping and expensive aimless follies.

Unquestionably, if we are content with the maintenance of a navy department simply as a shabby ornament to the government, a constant watchfulness may prevent some of the scandal and abuse which have found their way into our present organization and its incurable wastes may be reduced to the minimum, but if we desire to build ships for present usefulness instead of naval reminders of the days that are passed, we must have a department organized for the work, supplied with all the talent and ingenuity our country affords, prepared to take advantage of the experience of other nations, systematized so that all effort shall unite and lead in one direction and fully imbued with the conviction, that war vessels, though new are useless, unless they combine all that the ingenuity of man has up to this day brought forth relating to their construction. I earnestly commend this portion of the Secretary's report devoted to this subject to the attention of Congress in the hope that his suggestions touching the reorganization of his department may be adopted as the first step toward the reconstruction of our navy.

THE POSTAL SERVICE.

The affairs of the postal service are exhibited by the report of the Postmaster General, which will be laid before you. The postal revenue, whose ratio of gain upon the rising prosperity of 1882 and 1883 outstrip-

ped the necessary expenses of our growing service, was checked by the reduction in the rates of letter postage, took effect with the beginning of the act in the latter year, and it diminished during the two past fiscal years \$2,790,000 in about the proportion of \$2,270,000 in 1884 to \$202,000 in 1885. Natural growth and development having in the meantime increased the expenditure, resulting in a deficiency in the revenue to meet the expenses of the department of \$5,225,000 for the year 1884, and \$8,133,000 in the last fiscal year. The anticipated and natural revival of the revenue has been oppressed and retarded by the unfavorable business condition of the country of which the postal service is a faithful indicator. The gratifying fact is shown, however, by the report that our returning prosperity is marked by a gain of \$880,000 in the revenue of the latter half of the last year over the corresponding period of the preceding year. The change in the weight of first class matter which may be carried for a single rate of postage from a half ounce to an ounce and the reduction by one-half of the rate of newspaper postage which under recent legislation begun with the current year, will operate to restrain the augmentation of receipts which otherwise might have been expected to such a degree that the scale of expense may gain upon the revenue and cause an increased deficiency now shown at its close. Yet after no long period of re-awakened prosperity by proper economy it is confidently anticipated that even the present low rates now as favorable as any country affords will be adequate to sustain the cost of the service.

The operation of the Postoffice Department's for the convenience and benefit of the people, and the method by which they pay the charges of this usefulness of this public service, so that shall be just and impartial, is of its importance to them that the economical expenditure of the means for the maintenance and the improvement of its agencies, so that they may enjoy its highest usefulness. A proper attention has been directed to the prevention of waste, extravagance, and good results appear from the report to have already been accomplished. I approve the recommendation of the Postmaster General to reduce the charges on domestic money orders of \$5 and less from 25 cents to 5 cents. This change will materially aid those of our people who most of all avail themselves of this instrumentality, but to whom the element of cheapness is of the greatest importance. With this reduction the system would still remain self-supporting.

The free delivery system has been extended to ninety additional cities during the year and 178 now enjoy conveniences. Experience has commended it to those who enjoy its benefits, and further enlargement of its facilities is due to other communities to which it is added. In the cities where it has been established, taken together with the postal postage, it exceeds its maintenance by nearly \$1,300,000. The limit which this system is now confined by law has been nearly reached, and the reasons given justify its extension, which is proposed. It was decided, with my approbation after a sufficient examination, to be inexpedient for the Postoffice Department to intrust for carrying out the foreign mail under the additional authority given; the last Congress. The amount of the increase in the cost of the service of the law of the rate of fifty cents per mile, and would have been unjust and unwarranted given it to some and denied it to others. Nor could contracts have been let under the law toll at a rate to have brought the aggregate within the appropriation with such practical pre-arrangement of forms as would have violated it. That of sea and inland postage, which was professed under another statute, clearly appears to be a fair compensation for the desired service being three times the price necessary to secure transportation by other means upon any route and much beyond the charges made to private persons for services not less burdensome.

Some of the steamship companies, upon the refusal of the Postmaster General to attempt by the means provided for the distribution of the sum appropriated as an extra compensation, withdrew the service of their vessels and thereby occasioned slight inconvenience, though no considerable injury, the mails have been dispatched by other means. Whatever may be thought of the policy of subsidizing any line of public conveyance or travel, I am satisfied that it should not be done under cover of an expenditure incident to the administration of a department, nor should there be any uncertainty as to the recipients of the subsidy, or any discretion left to an executive officer as to its distribution. If such gifts of the public money are to be made for the purpose of aiding any enterprise in the supposed interest of the public, I cannot but think that the amount to be paid, and the benefit, might be better determined by Congress than in any other way. The international congress of delegates from postal union countries convened at Lisbon, in Portugal, in February last, and after a session of some weeks the delegates signed a convention amendatory of the present postal union convention in some particulars designed to advance its purposes. This additional act has had my approval and will be laid before you with the department report. I approve the recommendation of the Postmaster General that another assistant be provided for his department. I invite your consideration to the several other recommendations contained in his report.

THE JUDICIARY.
The report of the Attorney General contains a history of the conduct of the Department of Justice during the last year and a number of valuable suggestions as to needed legislation, and invite your careful attention to the same. The condition of business in the courts of the United States is such that there seems to be an imperative necessity for remedial legislation on the subject. Some of these courts are so overburdened with pending causes that the delays in determining litigation amount often to a denial of justice. Among the plans suggested for relief is one submitted by the Attorney General. Its main features are the transfer of all the original jurisdiction of the Circuit Courts to the District Courts and an increase of judges for the latter where necessary, an addition of judges to the Circuit Courts, and constituting them exclusively courts of appeal, and reasonably limiting appeals thereto, further restrictions of the right to remove causes from the State to Federal Courts, permitting appeals to the Supreme Courts from the courts of the District of Columbia and the Territories only in the same cases as they are allowed from the State Courts, and guarding against an increasing number of appeals from the Circuit Courts. I approve the plan thus outlined, and recommend the legislation necessary for its application to our judicial system. The present work of compensating United States Marshals and District Attorneys should, in my opinion, be changed. They are allowed to charge against the government certain fees for services, their income being measured by the amount of such fees within a fixed limit as to their annual aggregate. This is a direct inducement for them to make their fees in criminal cases as large as possible, in an effort to reach the maximum sum permitted. As an entirely natural consequence unscrupulous marshals are found encouraging frivolous prosecutions, arresting people on petty charges of crime and transporting them to distant places for examination and trial for the purpose of earning mileage and fees; and district attorneys uselessly attend criminal examinations far from their places of residence for the express purpose of swelling their accounts against the government. The actual expenses incurred in these transactions are also charged against the government. Thus the rights and freedom of our citizens are outraged and public expenditures increased for the purpose of furnishing public officers pretext for increasing the measure of their compensation. I think marshals and district attorneys should be paid salaries, adjusted by rules, which will make them commensurate with services fairly rendered. In connection with this subject I desire to suggest the advisability, if it be found not objectionable to constitutional objection, of investing United States Commissioners with the power to try and determine certain violations of law within the grade of misdemeanors. Such trials might be made to depend upon the option of the accused. The multiplication of small and technical offenses especially under the provisions of our internal revenue laws render some change in our present system very desirable in the interests of humanity as well as economy. The district courts are now crowded with petty prosecutions involving a punishment in cases of conviction of only a slight fine, while the parties accused are harassed by an enforced attendance upon courts held hun-

dreds of miles from their homes. If poor and friendless, they are obliged to remain in jail during months, perhaps, that elapse before a session of the court is held and are finally brought to trial surrounded by strangers and with but little real opportunity for defense. In the meantime frequently the marshal has charged against the government his fees for an arrest, the transportation of the accused and the expense of the same and for summoning witnesses before a commissioner, and district attorneys have also made their charge against the government. This abuse in the administration of our criminal law should be remedied, and if the plan herein suggested is not practicable, some other should be devised.

THE MORMON PROBLEM.
In the territory of Utah the law of the United States passed for the suppression of polygamy has been energetically and faithfully executed during the present year with measurely good results, a number of convictions have been secured for unlawful cohabitation, and in some cases pleas of guilty have been entered and a slight punishment imposed upon a promise by the accused that they would not again offend against the law nor advise, counsel, aid or abet in any way its violation by others.

The Utah commissioners express the opinion based upon such information as they are able to obtain, that but few polygamous marriages have taken place in the territory during the last year. They further report that while there cannot be found upon the registration lists of voters the name of a man actually guilty of polygamy, and while none of that class are holding office, yet at the last election in the territory all the officers elected except in one county, were men who, though not actually living in the practice of polygamy, subscribe to the doctrine of polygamous marriages as a divine revelation and a law unto all, higher and more binding upon the conscience than any human law, local or national. This is the strange spectacle presented of a community protected by a Republican form of government to which they owe allegiance, sustaining by their suffrages a principle and a belief which sets at naught that obligation of absolute obedience to the law of the land, which lies at the foundation of republican institutions. The strength, the perpetuity and the destiny of the nation rest upon our homes, established by the law of God, guarded by parental care, regulated by parental authority and sanctified by parental love. These are not the homes of polygamy.

The mothers of our land, who rule the nation as they mould the character and guide the actions of their sons, live according to God's holy ordinances, and each secures happiness in the exclusive love of the father of her children, shades the warm light of true womanhood, unprovoked and unpolled upon all within her pure and wholesome family circle. These are not the cheerless, crushed and unwomanly mothers of polygamy. The fathers of our families are the best citizens of the Republic. Wife and children are the sources of patriotism, and conjugal and parental affection beget devotion to the country.

The man who undified with plural marriage is surrounded in his single home with his wife and children has a stake in the country which inspires him with respect for its laws and courage for its defense. These are not the fathers of polygamous families. There is no feature of this practice or the system which sanctions it which is not opposed to all that is of value to our institutions. There should be no relaxation in the firm but just execution of the law now in operation, and I should be glad to approve such further discret legislation as will rid the country of this blot upon its fair fame. Since the people upholding polygamy in our territories are reinforced by immigration from other lands, I recommend that a law be passed to prevent importation of Mormons into the country.

OUR AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS.

The agricultural interest of the country demands just recognition and liberal encouragement. It sustains with certainty and unfailing strength our nation's prosperity by the products of its steady toil, and bears its full share of the burden of taxation without complaint. Our agriculturalists have but slight personal representations in the councils of the nation and are generally content with the humbler duties of citizenship, and willing to trust to the bounty of nature for a reward of their labor, but the magnitude and value of this industry is appreciated when

the statement is made that of our total annual exports more than three-fourths are the products of agriculture, and of our total population nearly one half are exclusively engaged in that occupation. The department of Agriculture was created for the purpose of acquiring and diffusing among the people useful information respecting the subjects it has in charge, and aiding in the cause of intelligent and progressive farming by the collection of statistics by testing the virtue and usefulness of new seeds and plants and distributing such as are found desirable among agriculturalists. This and other powers and duties with which this department is invested are of the utmost importance, and if wisely executed, must be of great benefit to the country. The aim of our beneficent government is the improvement of the people in every station and the amelioration of their condition. Surely our agriculturalists should not be neglected. The department established in aid of the farmers of the land should not only be well equipped for the accomplishment of its purpose, but those for whose benefit it has been adapted should be encouraged to avail themselves fully of its advantages.

The prohibition of the importation into several countries of certain of our animals and their products, based upon the suspicion that health is endangered in their use and consumption suggests the importance of such precautions for the protection of our stock of all kinds against disease as will disarm suspicion of danger and cause the removal of such an injurious prohibition. If the laws now in operation are insufficient to accomplish this protection I recommend their amendment to meet the necessities of the situation, and I commend to the consideration of Congress the suggestions contained in the report of the Commissioner of Agriculture calculated to increase the value and efficiency of this department.

THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION.

The report of the civil service commission, which will be submitted, contains an account of the manner in which the civil service law has been executed during the last year, and much valuable information on this important subject. I am inclined to think that there is no sentiment more general in the minds of the people of our country than a conviction of the correctness of the principles upon which the law enforcing civil service reform is based. In its present condition the law regulates only a part of the subordinate public positions throughout the country. It applies the test of fitness to applicants for these places by means of a competitive examination, and gives large discretion to the commissioners as to the character of the examination, and many other matters connected with its execution. Thus the rules and regulations adopted by the commission have much to do with the practical usefulness of the statute, and with the results of its application. The people may well trust the Commission to execute the law with perfectness and with as little irritation as possible. But, of course, no relaxation of the principle which underlies it, and no weakening of the safeguards which surround it, can be expected. Experience in its administration will probably suggest the amendment of the methods of its execution, but I venture to hope that we shall never again be reminded to the system which distributes public positions purely as rewards for partisan service. Doubts may well be entertained whether our government could survive the strain of a continuance of this system, which, upon every change of administration, inspires an immense army of claimants for office to lay siege to the patronage of the government, engrossing the time of public officers with their importunities, spreading abroad the contagion of their disappointment and filling the air with the tumult of their discontent.

The allotments of an immense number of offices and places exhibited to the voters of the land, and the bestowal in recognition of partisan activity, debauches the suffrage and robs political action of its thoughtful and deliberative character. The evil would increase with the multiplication of officers consequent upon our extension and mania for office holding, growing from its indigence, would pervade our population so generally that patriotic purpose, the support of principle, the desire for the public good and solicitude for the national welfare, would be banished from the party contest to ignoble general electioneering.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

My attention has been called to a controversy which has arisen from the condition of the law relating to railroad facilities in the city of Washington, which has involved the Commissioners of the District in much annoyance and trouble. I hope this difficulty will be promptly settled by appropriate legislation. The Commissioners represent that enough of the revenues of the District are now on deposit in the Treasury of the United States to repay the sum advanced by the government for sewer improvements under the act of June 30, 1884. They desire now an advance of the share which ultimately should be borne by the District of the cost of extensive improvements of the city. The total expense of these contemplated improvements is estimated at \$1,000,000.

An Act to provide for the completion of the Washington and Annapolis Railroad, approved December 22, 1885. Sec. 1. That whenever real estate is to be sold by a Master, such sale may be made by contract of the parties to the cause, or their attorneys, or when infants are parties, by the consent of the guardians ad litem of such infants or their attorneys, in any County where the Court may direct. Sec. 2. That all such sales herebefore made and otherwise valid are hereby confirmed. An Act to amend an Act entitled "An Act to limit the ages of pupils attending the Free Public Schools," approved December 22, 1885. Sec. 1. That an Act entitled "An Act to limit the ages of pupils attending the Free Public Schools," approved December 22, 1883, be, and the same is hereby amended by striking out the whole of Section 2, and inserting in lieu thereof the following in lieu thereof: Sec. 2. That from and after the passage of this Act it shall not be lawful for any person who is less than six or more than eight years of age to attend any of the free public schools of this District, unless he or she be accompanied by a parent or guardian. An Act providing for the appointment of a special Master under certain circumstances. Section 1. That whenever the Master of any county shall be unable to perform the duties of Master by reason of absence from the county, inability, disability or any other cause whatsoever, and whenever the office of Master shall be vacant in any County for which a Master has been appointed, the presiding Judge shall be, and he is hereby authorized to appoint in any case, a suitable person to act as Special Master, who shall thereupon be pro hac vice with the rights, powers and duties of a Master. An Act to suppress the publication and circulation of obscene books, papers and pictures. Section 1. That whoever imports, prints, publishes, sells or distributes any book, pamphlet, paper, picture or other thing of the nature of obscenity, indecent or improper printing, figure or description manifestly tending to the corruption of the morals of youth, or introduces into a family school or place of education, or brings into a family, or receives or has in his possession any such book, pamphlet, paper, picture, or other thing of the nature of obscenity, indecent or improper printing, figure or description, or knowingly introduces to aid in a circulation, or attempts to introduce the same into a family school or place of education, shall be punished by imprisonment not exceeding two years or by a fine not exceeding one thousand (\$1,000) dollars, or both, in the discretion of the Court. An Act to authorize the Adjutant and Inspector General to lend arms to schools or colleges the pupils of which are instructed in Military Tactics. Section 1. That the Adjutant and Inspector General be, and he is hereby authorized to lend to any school or college the pupils of which are instructed in Military Tactics, a number of arms and accoutrements as may be needed for the use of the militia. Sec. 2. That the Adjutant and Inspector General shall require the teachers of such school or college to execute a bond for the safe keeping of such arms and accoutrements, and shall call in such arms and accoutrements at the expiration of the term of such school or college.

of office and public place. Civil service reform, enforced by law, came none too soon to check the progress of demoralization. One of its effects, not enough regarded, is the freedom it brings to the political action of those conservative and sober men, who, in fear of the confusion and risk attending an arbitrary and sudden change in all the public offices with a change of party rule, cast their ballots against such a change. Parties seem to be necessary, and will long continue to exist; nor can it be now denied that there are legitimate advantages, not disconnected with office-holding, which follow party supremacy. While partisanship continues bitter and pronounced and supplies so much of motive to sentiment and action, it is not fair to hold public officials in charge of important trusts responsible for the best results in the performance of their duties and yet insist that they shall rely, in confidential and important places, upon the work of those not only opposed to them in political affiliation, but so steeped in partisan prejudice and rancor that they have no loyalty to their chiefs and no desire for their success.

Civil service reform does not exact this, nor does it require that those in subordinate positions who fail in yielding their best service, or who are incompetent, should be retained simply because they are in place. The whining of a clerk discharged for insolence or incompetency, who, though he gained his place by the worst possible operation of the spoils system, suddenly discovers that he is entitled to protection under the sanction of civil service reform, presents an idea no less absurd than the clamor of the applicant who claims the vacant position as his compensation for the most questionable party work. The civil service law does not prevent the discharge of the indolent or incompetent clerk, but it does prevent supplying his place with the unfit party worker. Thus, in both these phases, is seen the benefit to the public service, and the people who desire good government having secured this statute, will not relinquish its benefits without protest. Nor are they unimpaired of the fact that its full advantages can only be gained through the complete good faith of those having its execution in charge, and this they will insist upon.

I recommend that the salaries of the civil service commissioners be increased to a sum more nearly commensurate to their important duties. THE CONGRESSIONAL LIBRARY. It is a source of considerable, and not unnatural, discontent that no adequate provision has yet been made for accommodating the principal library for the government. Of the vast collection of books and pamphlets gathered at the capitol, numbering some 3,700,000, exclusive of manuscripts, maps and the products of the graphic arts, also of great volume and value, only about three hundred thousand volumes, or less than half the collection are provided with shelf room. The others which are increasing at the rate of from twenty-five to thirty thousand volumes a year, are not only inaccessible to the public, but are subject to serious damage and deterioration from other causes in their present situation. A consideration of the fact that the library of the capitol has twice been destroyed or damaged by fire, its daily increasing value and its importance as a place of deposit of books under the law relating to copyright, make manifest the necessity of prompt action to insure its proper accommodation and protection.

THE PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION. The present condition of the Presidential succession, in the event of the disability or removal of both the President and Vice-President, is such as to require immediate amendment. This subject has repeatedly been considered by Congress, but no result has been reached. The recent lamentable death of the Vice-President and the vacancies at the same time in several other offices, the incumbents of which might immediately exercise the functions of the Presidential office, has caused public anxiety, and a just demand that a recurrence of such a condition of affairs should not be permitted.

IN CONCLUSION, I commend to the wise care and thoughtful attention of Congress the welfare and aspirations of an intelligent and patriotic nation. To subordinate these to the narrow advantages of partisanship or the selfishness of the people's interests. But an individual sense of responsibility and a part of each of us, and a stern determination to perform our duty well must give us a place among those who have added to their day and generation to the glory and prosperity of our beloved land.

GROVER CLEVELAND, price of Washington, December 8, 1885 my entire time and attention being devoted to the New Legislation for New Hampshire, and have not determined to take any part in the work of the Legislature during the year 1886.

AN Act to provide for the completion of the Washington and Annapolis Railroad, approved December 22, 1885. Sec. 1. That whenever real estate is to be sold by a Master, such sale may be made by contract of the parties to the cause, or their attorneys, or when infants are parties, by the consent of the guardians ad litem of such infants or their attorneys, in any County where the Court may direct. Sec. 2. That all such sales herebefore made and otherwise valid are hereby confirmed.

AN Act to amend an Act entitled "An Act to limit the ages of pupils attending the Free Public Schools," approved December 22, 1885. Sec. 1. That an Act entitled "An Act to limit the ages of pupils attending the Free Public Schools," approved December 22, 1883, be, and the same is hereby amended by striking out the whole of Section 2, and inserting in lieu thereof the following in lieu thereof: Sec. 2. That from and after the passage of this Act it shall not be lawful for any person who is less than six or more than eight years of age to attend any of the free public schools of this District, unless he or she be accompanied by a parent or guardian. An Act providing for the appointment of a special Master under certain circumstances. Section 1. That whenever the Master of any county shall be unable to perform the duties of Master by reason of absence from the county, inability, disability or any other cause whatsoever, and whenever the office of Master shall be vacant in any County for which a Master has been appointed, the presiding Judge shall be, and he is hereby authorized to appoint in any case, a suitable person to act as Special Master, who shall thereupon be pro hac vice with the rights, powers and duties of a Master. An Act to suppress the publication and circulation of obscene books, papers and pictures. Section 1. That whoever imports, prints, publishes, sells or distributes any book, pamphlet, paper, picture or other thing of the nature of obscenity, indecent or improper printing, figure or description manifestly tending to the corruption of the morals of youth, or introduces into a family school or place of education, or brings into a family, or receives or has in his possession any such book, pamphlet, paper, picture, or other thing of the nature of obscenity, indecent or improper printing, figure or description, or knowingly introduces to aid in a circulation, or attempts to introduce the same into a family school or place of education, shall be punished by imprisonment not exceeding two years or by a fine not exceeding one thousand (\$1,000) dollars, or both, in the discretion of the Court. An Act to authorize the Adjutant and Inspector General to lend arms to schools or colleges the pupils of which are instructed in Military Tactics. Section 1. That the Adjutant and Inspector General be, and he is hereby authorized to lend to any school or college the pupils of which are instructed in Military Tactics, a number of arms and accoutrements as may be needed for the use of the militia. Sec. 2. That the Adjutant and Inspector General shall require the teachers of such school or college to execute a bond for the safe keeping of such arms and accoutrements, and shall call in such arms and accoutrements at the expiration of the term of such school or college.

be made, the government will be reimbursed for the same within a reasonable time. I have no doubt but that these improvements could be made much cheaper if taken together and prosecuted according to a general plan. The license law now in force within the District is ancient and uncertain in some provisions, and ought to be a general plan. The license law now in force within the District is ancient and uncertain in some provisions, and ought to be a general plan. The license law now in force within the District is ancient and uncertain in some provisions, and ought to be a general plan.

THE PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION. The present condition of the Presidential succession, in the event of the disability or removal of both the President and Vice-President, is such as to require immediate amendment. This subject has repeatedly been considered by Congress, but no result has been reached. The recent lamentable death of the Vice-President and the vacancies at the same time in several other offices, the incumbents of which might immediately exercise the functions of the Presidential office, has caused public anxiety, and a just demand that a recurrence of such a condition of affairs should not be permitted.

IN CONCLUSION, I commend to the wise care and thoughtful attention of Congress the welfare and aspirations of an intelligent and patriotic nation. To subordinate these to the narrow advantages of partisanship or the selfishness of the people's interests. But an individual sense of responsibility and a part of each of us, and a stern determination to perform our duty well must give us a place among those who have added to their day and generation to the glory and prosperity of our beloved land.

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AN Act to amend an Act entitled